

# Grade 8 and 11 NECAP *Online* Writing – Fall 2012

**Qualifying Pilot for New Schools – Coming in March/April 2012**

**Participation is limited to 20 new HS and 20 new MS, so sign up now!**

Eighth grade students in 8 New Hampshire middle schools and eleventh graders in one New Hampshire high school successfully participated in the NECAP writing test in October 2011. Due to the success of the Measured Progress iTest system and positive feedback from both students and schools, we are expanding the program to include additional schools. We feel that moving toward online testing will provide greater fidelity between writing in the classroom and writing for state assessments.

The purpose of the spring pilot test is essentially to confirm that iTest will work successfully in your school for students in future actual NECAP tests. That means that the pilot testing environment should be the same as it will be next October: your entire 8<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade class should participate at one time, students should be positioned in the rooms in which next year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will participate, and both writing sessions, which consist of released items, should be administered. Schools should allow a minimum of 45 minutes for each of the 2 sessions. The pilot is intended to be a test of the school's capacity to administer iTest, so student work will not be scored. However, student responses will be returned to schools in May.

The technical requirements are attached. If you are one of the **first 20 middle schools and 20 high schools** responding to this invitation, you may be part of the second cohort of schools to qualify for operational testing in 2012 and will be notified of required training sessions which can be accessed electronically from your school.

If your school is interested in inclusion in the pilot, please forward the following information to Tim Kurtz ([Timothy.Kurtz@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Timothy.Kurtz@doe.nh.gov)) **as soon as possible but no later than March 1, 2012.**

- ✍ **School Name and Number of Grade 8 Students or Grade 11 Students**
- ✍ **Principal Name, Email and Phone**
- ✍ **Technology Coordinator Name, Email and Phone**
- ✍ **Test Coordinator Name, Email and Phone**
- ✍ **Designation of Contact for Communication: Principal, Technology Coordinator, or Test Coordinator**

Tim Kurtz, 603-271-3846, [Timothy.Kurtz@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Timothy.Kurtz@doe.nh.gov)

**From:** Sandy Rutherford [mailto:srutherford@sau17.org]

**Subject:** Re: NECAP On-line Writing Assessment

Good Morning Tim Kurtz,

Your staff at the Office of Curriculum and Assessment could not have been more supportive or helpful in the implementation and administration of the 8th grade on-line writing pilot and this year's on-line Writing NECAP. All of our fears about hardware and on-line program complications were unwarranted. Calls to your office were immediately answered and all issues addressed in a thorough and timely manner. It is our belief that students who have the opportunity to use the on-line medium for participating in the NECAP are more comfortable in front of a computer screen and will be more thorough with the use of a keyboard. Thank you for your support of our students.

Sandy Rutherford  
Principal, Sanborn Regional Middle School